Installation of UHF and VHF systems in Sikkim

1671. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has given sanction for installation of UHF and VHF system in order to link the District Head Quarters of Mangan, Namethi and Gyzing with the State Capital, Gangtok, Sikkim and with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, what has been the progress of work and when these are going to start functioning; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 3 UHF schemes sanctioned for linking the 3 District Head Quarters *viz.* Namchi, Gyzing and Mangan with Gangtok, the State capital of Sikkim.

(b) These 3 schemes are tentatively targetted for commissioning during 1988-89 subject to availability of land at different sites during this year and timely availability of the materials.

(c) Does not airse.

Coverage of population by the communications services

1672. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what percetnage of population of each State is covered by (i) Postal Services, (ii) Telegraphic Service, (iii) Telephone Service, (iv) Telex Service, (v) S.T.D. Service and other communications services, State-wise;

(b) what coverage by the said services is estimated at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(c) what is the number of people presently emplyed in various communication services mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) what are the likely employment potentials at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan in those services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Postal Services:

By the end of the Third Five Year Plan that is by 1966, the entire country had come under Postal Service with the total elimination of 'no-dak villages'. The present position is that a postal article or a money order addressed to/payable to persons residing anywhere in India is delivered or paid. The percentage of population covered by postal service can therefore be taken as cent per cent. No doubt, a large number of Post Offices have been opened year after year since 1966 also but the main objective has been to reduce the average area served by a Post Office so as to improve the delivery services.

2. Whereas in towns and cities, a number of Post Offices exist in each one of them, in rural areas the practice is that a certain number of villages are grouped together and a Post Office opened in one of the villages to serve as a common facility. The village Postman/ delivery agent attached to that Post Office visits the other villages within the group on practically a day to day basis to deliver postal articles, pay money orders sell postage stamps and stationery and to accept articles for despatch including registration of postal articles. As on 31-7-1986. 1,28,813 post Officers in rural areas and 15,747 Post offices is urban areas provided comprehensive Postal coverage to the whole country.

(c) and (d) Postal Services:

As on 31-3-1986, a total number of 5,91,561 persons, including extra-departmental agents were employed in the Postal Services. On account of the continuing ban on creation of new Posts and the present policy of creating new facilities/Post Offices maily by re-deployment of existing manpower resources, it is nit expected that the total workforce of the Department may show any significant increase over the present level at the end of the Seventh Plan. However, the newly introduced